(d) the action taken for causing the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of HRD had advanced a revolving sum of Rs. 250.00 crores during December, 1996 which was increased to Rs. 300.00 crores during February, 1998 to take care of the bills delayed due to non-submission of Utilisation Certificate by the State Govts. or non-settlement of the claims after submission of bills to the Ministry of HRD.

Foodgrains for BPL families in Rajasthan

237. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present quantity of wheat and rice allocation for BPL famillies to Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the quantity as compared to earlier years;

(c) if so, the details for the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether in the past the State Government of Rajasthan had informed the Centre that the wheat and rice for BPL families were of very bad quality; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The present allocation to Rajasthan for BPL families is 771 tonnes rice and 66,233 tonnes of wheat per month under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A few State Governments including Rajasthan have complained about issue of poor quality of "lustre lost" wheat under PDS. Lustre lost wheat is at par with sound wheat, so far as nutritional value is concerned. Keeping in view the reluctance of State Governments towards lustre lost wheat, its supply was stopped to State Governments from

6th August, 2002. Only good quality foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Adulteration Act (PFA) norms are issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes.

All party meeting on PDS

238. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an all party meeting was held on the problems of the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the follow-up meeting with all the Chief Ministers is also supposed to be held;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the discussions that took place in all party meeting;

(d) whether the meeting of all the Chief Ministers was held;

(e) if not, by when it is going to be held; and

(f) what is the reaction of Government to scrap PDS and to adopt universal system of distribution so as ensure that no section of the population is deprived of food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Representatives of various political parties expressed their views and *inter-alia* gave suggestions for strengthening/improving the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country like better co-ordination between the Central and State Governments, strengthening and increasing the viability of the Fair Price Shops, checking diversion, decentralized procurement of foodgrains, proper identification of beneficiaries, reduction of the Central Issue Price for APL category etc.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. No date has yet been finalized for this meeting.

(f) The Targeted Public Distribution System was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the unprivileged sections of the Society, as the earlier universal PDS did not adequately focus on the poor and had an urban bias. It is felt that the introduction of Universal PDS would result in